

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a multimedia system that includes a processing device for receiving and processing video programming and associated video content information and a display device for displaying the video programming, a method of providing interactive access to the video programming and the video content information, comprising the acts of:

receiving at the processing device video content information associated with video programming that is scheduled to be broadcast;

displaying on the display device a first interface image that presents the video content information for a particular video program of the video programming, the first interface image being linked to other interface images associated with supplemental content information associated with the particular video program; and

in response to viewer input, displaying on the display device a second interface image that presents the supplemental content information related to a specified category of the video content information.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the processing device further receives video identification information that correlates the video content information with the associated particular video program.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first interface image further presents operation information on the display device and enables the viewer to provide input to the processing device that causes the processing device to perform a specified operation with respect to the particular video program.

4. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising the acts of:
 - receiving from the viewer said input to the processing device; and
 - performing the specified operation, wherein the specified operation includes displaying the particular video program.
5. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising the acts of:
 - receiving from the viewer said input to the processing device; and
 - performing the specified operation, wherein the specified operation includes recording the particular video program.
6. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising the acts of:
 - receiving from the viewer said input to the processing device; and
 - performing the specified operation, wherein the specified operation includes issuing a reminder that the specified video program is to be broadcast.
7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first interface image presents search functionality and enables a viewer to provide input to the processing device that causes the processing device to perform filter operations on the video content information to identify video programs representing a subset of the video programming that is scheduled to be broadcast.

8. In a multimedia system that includes a processing device for receiving and processing video programming and associated video content information and a display device for displaying the video programming, a method of providing interactive access to the video programming and the video content information, comprising the acts of:

receiving at the processing device video content associated with video programming that is scheduled to be broadcast;

displaying on the display device a first interface image that presents the video content information for a particular video program of the video programming, the first interface image being linked to the other video programs of the video programming; and

in response to viewer input, displaying on the display device a second interface image that presents the video content information for one of said other video programs to which the first interface image is linked.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the processing device further receives video identification information that correlates the video content information with the associated particular video program.

10. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the first interface image further presents operation information on the display device and enables the viewer to provide input to the processing device that causes the processing device to perform a specified operation with respect to the particular video program.

11. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the acts of:

providing a supplemental content interface associated with a specified category of the video content information displayed on the first interface image; and

in response to viewer input, displaying on the display device the supplemental content interface image, said supplemental content interface image containing supplemental video content information associated with the specified category of the video content information displayed on the first interface image.

12. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the video content information includes at least synopsis information, rating information, and actor information.

13. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the acts of:

providing a plurality of supplemental content interfaces images, each interface image being associated with a specified category of the video content information displayed on the first interface image; and

in response to viewer input, displaying on the display device one of the plurality of supplemental content interface images corresponding with the specified category of the video content information selected by the viewer.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the plurality of supplemental content interface images comprise web pages.

15. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein:

the specified category of the video content information comprises actor information; and

wherein the supplemental content interface image comprises an actor information page containing biographical and filmographical information for the selected actor.

16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein:

the supplemental content interface image is linked to other video programs of the video programming; and

the method further comprises the act of, in response to viewer input, displaying on the display device another interface image that presents the video content information for one of said other video programs to which the supplemental content interface image is linked.

17. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the act of providing a video information select module including video identification information, the information select module enabling the viewer to request the first interface image and the corresponding video content information.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the video information select module is linked to a listing on an electronic programming guide.

19. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the video information select module is linked to a display of a video program.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, further comprising the act of automatically recording the video program being displayed at the time of the viewer selection in response to viewer selection of the video information select module.

21. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the video information select module is linked to search results provided in response to a search for video programming conducted by a viewer.

22. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the first interface image presents search functionality and enables a viewer to provide input to the processing device that causes the processing device to perform filter operations on the video content information to identify video programs representing a subset of the video programming that is scheduled to be broadcast.

23. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the search functionality provides keywords selectable by the viewer, the filter operations filtering out all video programs not containing video content information containing the keyword selected.

24. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the search functionality allows the viewer to select one or more search criteria, the filter operations filtering out all video programs not containing video content information containing the selected search criteria.

25. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein:

the search functionality provides keywords selectable by the viewer and allows the viewer to select one or more search criteria; and

the filter operations filter out all video programs not containing video content information containing the selected keyword and the selected search criteria.

26. In a multimedia system that includes a processing device for receiving and processing video programming and associated video content information and a display device for displaying the video programming, a method using the video content information to display on the display device a filterable electronic programming guide, comprising the acts of:

receiving, at the processing device, the video content information associated with the video programming;

displaying on the display device an electronic programming guide that indicates the video programming that is to be broadcast, wherein the electronic programming guide specifies at least a time of broadcast and a channel of broadcast for specific video programs of the video programming;

applying parameters for two or more filters to the video programming, such that the number of individual video programs of the video programming that is displayed on the electronic programming guide is reduced.

27. A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the acts of:

receiving user input specifying video programs previously viewed;

storing data representing the video programs previously viewed; and

using the data representing the video programs previously viewed to specify parameters for filtering, such that the individual video programs displayed after filtering do not contain the video programs previously viewed.

28. A computer program product for implementing, in a multimedia system that includes a processing device for receiving and processing video programming and associated video content information and a display device for displaying the video programming, a method of providing interactive access to video the programming and the video content information, the computer program product comprising:

 a computer-readable medium carrying computer-executable instructions for implementing the method, wherein the computer-executable instructions, when executed, cause the processing device to perform the acts of:

 receiving at the processing device video content information and video identification information associated with video programming that is scheduled to be broadcast;

 displaying on the display device a first interface image that presents the video content information for a particular video program of the video programming, the first interface image being linked to the other video programs of the video programming; and

 in response to viewer input, displaying on the display device a second interface image that presents the video content information for one of said other video programs to which the first interface image is linked.

29. A computer program product as defined in claim 28, wherein the act of displaying on the display device a first interface image further comprises the acts of:

 presenting operation information on the display device; and

 enabling the viewer to provide input to the processing device that causes the processing device to perform a specified operation with respect to the particular video.

30. A computer program product as defined in claim 28, wherein the act of displaying on the display device a first interface image further comprises the act of performing filter operations on the video content information in response to receiving user input to identify video programs representing a subset of the video programming that is scheduled to be broadcast.

31. In a multimedia system that includes a processing device for receiving and processing video programming and associated video content information and a display device for displaying the video programming, a method of providing interactive access to the video programming and video content information, comprising the acts of:

receiving at the processing device video content information and video identification information associated with video programming that is scheduled to be broadcast;

receiving at the processing device video programming being broadcast;

displaying on the display device the a particular video program of the video programming;

providing a video information select module that is selectable while the particular video program is being displayed, wherein the video information select module allows the user to request video content information;

in response to a viewer request for video content information, displaying on the display device a first interface image that presents the video content information for the particular video program, the first interface image being linked to supplemental content interfaces.

32. A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the first interface image is linked to other video programs of the video programming.

33. A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the first interface image presents search functionality and enables a viewer to provide input to the processing device that causes the processing device to perform filter operations on the video content information to identify

video programs representing a subset of the video programming that is scheduled to be broadcast.

34. A method as recited in claim 31, wherein:

the supplemental content interface image is linked to other video programs of the video programming; and

the method further comprises, in response to viewer input, displaying on the display device a second interface image that presents the video content information for one of said other video programs to which the supplemental content interface image is linked.

35. A method as recited in claim 31, further comprising, in response to viewer input displaying an icon, on the interface image, indicating the video programs having previously been viewed.